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Sitrep

18 September 1984

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the International

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Coordinating Committee of commercial bank creditors (ICC) told Yugoslav officials that it is willing to begin discussions in late September on refinancing 1985 obligations provided Belgrade reports overdue balance-of-payments data by 19 September. Some ICC members predict the ICC will offer Yugoslavia a lower interest rate than in previous agreements, but they do not believe Yugoslavia's economic performance warrants interest rates as concessionary as those recently granted Mexico. The ICC is still willing to consider a multiyear rescheduling, but only if Belgrade agrees to IMF involvement in 1985 stabilization policies and to larger principal repayments each year and if Western government creditors approve similar terms.

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Poland

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with the Poles produced agreement to begin negotiations on rescheduling \$11 billion owed to government creditors in 1982-84. All creditors, including the US, were satisfied that Warsaw has met or will soon meet the conditions established for resumption of rescheduling talks--payment of unrescheduled debt from 1981 and 20 percent of the overdue interest on the 1981 rescheduling agreement. Contingent upon final confirmation of the required payments, the creditors agreed to begin discussion of rescheduling terms on 24 October.

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In preparation for the October meeting, the creditors pressed the Poles to set more ambitious targets for the hard currency trade and current account surpluses for 1985 and to maintain the present deficit with soft currency countries. The Paris Club chairman argued that Warsaw should take the interests of its foreign creditors into account. Polish Finance Minister Karcz responded that the regime has already taken account of the creditors' interests and that there is no more room to give. The Poles were instructed to revise and update their earlier balance-of-payments projections and to report on their plans for economic reform before the next Paris Club session.

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Poland's agreement

rescheduling 1984-87 obligations to commercial banks went into force on 24 August even though the banks failed to raise the full amount of new credits promised Warsaw. The final amount of new money reached only \$625 million--\$20 million less than the banks

agreed to raisebecause a major Argentine bank and several US
regional banks refused to contribute. The Poles did not
explicitly accept the smaller amount, but have made payments due
under the agreement. The banks interpret this as tacit approval
of the rescheduling pact and disbursed the first tranche of new
credits in early September.

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